



Public Information Release

For More Information:

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For Release Immediately
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Turn In Your Unwanted Prescription Drugs to the Bloomington Police Department

On Saturday September 27, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the Bloomington Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its ninth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Bloomington Police Department, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, Minnesota. Please use the 1st floor lobby entrance. **We cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, only pills or patches.** The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last October, Americans turned in 324 tons (over 647,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 4,114 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. When those results are combined with what was collected in its seven previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 3.4 million pounds—more than 1,700 tons—of pills. Last April, the Bloomington Police Department took back over 560 pounds of unused prescription medications. Many of the citizens who dropped off medications expressed their appreciation for this service.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER